

Hawaii MARINE

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Hawaii governor 3/3 set to return to speak at eighth PWMLS

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Press Chief

The Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are returning to Hawaii this month after spending more than seven months in Afghanistan where they have been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The recent deployment of their sister platoon 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, foresaw the homecoming for 3/3, as they deployed to the same region to replace them in their endeavors overseas.

During their time in Afghanistan, the Marines and Sailors of 3/3 were instrumental in providing

support by participating in continuing stabilization, security and counter-terror operations.

The first of America's Battalion's many major accomplishments came in late January, when Force Lima, with the aid of Afghan forces, discovered a large cache of rocket-propelled grenades and 7.62 mm ammunition, as well as 5 kilos of opium and close to 2,000 pounds of hashish.

Less than one week later, in the Khost province, the Marines were involved in their first firefight against enemy militants. One Marine suffered a gunshot wound to his arm during the attack, but was released to his unit later that day.

The Marines had alternate missions besides com-

bating enemy militants throughout their deployment to Afghanistan. They also took on the important role of training Afghan Security Force soldiers who learned different elements of Marine Corps training through Marine Corps Martial Arts training, military operations in urban terrain and patrolling.

In early March, the battalion performed what was referred to as their most successful operation in that region to date. After one and one-half months of obtaining key intelligence information on anti-government militia forces in the Khost province, Marines gained enough information to conduct a

See 3/3, A-7

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is scheduled to host its 8th Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series at the Base Theater, June 28, with Hawaii State Governor Linda Lingle as the guest speaker.

In the past, speakers have included such esteemed individuals as James Webb, former Secretary of the Navy; Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii Congressmen; Bill O'Reilly, host of the O'Reilly Factor; and retired Lt. Gen. Henry C. Stackpole III.

This year, Governor Lingle will address local issues concerning the Hawaii-based Marine audience.

The lecture series began at K-Bay three years ago with the then Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee. The idea of the lectures was based on the Erskine Lecture Series taught to Marine Corps University students in Quantico, Va.

According to Lt. Col. Jon S. Hoffman, Headquarters Battalion G-3, Gen. McAbee had previously worked in Quantico and was familiar with the Erskine lecture series and wanted to share that with the Marines and Sailors at Kaneohe Bay.

"The intention of the lectures are to give politicians, public thinkers and national figures the opportunity to address Marines and Sailors," said Hoffman. "The common theme of the speeches is leadership. And that is what we are hoping to achieve — to give listeners a better understanding of different leadership styles and techniques that they can learn from."

Those who have spoken at the PWM lecture series have ranged in job title from professional football coach to Hawaii congressman. The diversity of the speaker's experiences introduces Marines and Sailors to different leadership styles, viewpoints, and opinions.

Although the attendance at

See PWMLS, A-7



Photos By Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

'Skinny Dragons' fly in

Above — Members of Patrol Squadron Four recently returned from a six-month deployment to Bahrain where they provided support for operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as Tsunami relief efforts. The "Skinny Dragons" deployed from Hawaii to the main deployment site in Bahrain from which detachments were sent throughout the Arabian Gulf, Diego Garcia, Guam and Japan. The P-3s from VP-4 conducted operations overland Iraq, filling an Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance roll by providing valuable imagery and communications to combat forces on the ground. Support highlights from the deployment included the Jan. 31 elections and the recent Operation Matador. Squadron aircraft also filled a similar role, flying from Afghanistan where they provided ISR support to ground forces.

Far left — Petty Officer 1st Class Rick Grant, aviation electrician, VP-4, reunites with his wife Angie, and two sons Ricky, 3, and Jake, 5.

Left — Lt. j.g. Matthew Maury, VP-4, sees his son for the very first time upon his return from a six-month deployment.



Japanese group honors OIF veterans, pilot

Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Community Relations Chief

Since the late 1970s, members of the Japan Religious Committee for World Federation have made an annual pilgrimage every Dec. 7 to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to pay their respects to fallen World War II warriors from both sides of the battle lines who lost their lives on that fateful day in 1941.

The group, currently led by spokeswoman Mihoko Maier, first stops at the impact site of Lt. Fusata Iida, the former commander of the Japanese Imperial Navy's Third Patrol who is believed to be the highest ranking Japanese pilot shot down during the attacks on Pearl Harbor and what was then Kaneohe Naval Air Station.

After paying their respects and giving offerings of sake, rice and flowers at the Iida marker, the members then repeat the process at the Kaneohe Klipper Monument, to honor the 18 U.S. Sailors and one civilian killed here on what President Franklin Roosevelt would later call, "a date which will live in infamy."

On Saturday, however, the Japan Religious Committee for World Federation broke with that tradition, in terms of the date in which they visit MCB Hawaii, if not the sentiment

with which these visits are made.

"We are very honored to be the guests of the Marine Corps every December seventh, and we plan on continuing with that tradition. But this summer, we also wanted to come out to pay respects at the Pacific War Memorial to the brave Marines who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan," explained Maier. "Our sincerest thoughts and prayers are with them and their families."

Maier also noted that she was especially moved by the fact that Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans joined her group at both the Lt. Iida marker and the Pacific War Memorial for tributes on this special day.

"To have combat veterans from the Iraq war join us truly made this an unforgettable day," said Maier. "We always pray for their safe return back to their families, and to have them with us during our ceremony was very special."

Sgt. Brock Goss, an OIF veteran and native of Warner Robbins, Ga., currently serving as a Sergeant Instructor at the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy, seemed to echo those sentiments.

"I was very humbled by the tremendous respect they showed to me and the other Marines," said Goss. "Both the ceremony at the Lieutenant Iida marker and at the Pacific War

Memorial were done in Japanese, and even though I don't understand the language, I felt like I could understand what they were saying. It was very emotional. One veteran was crying. It was plain to see how much these people cared about us, and to see that people from different cultures are behind us and praying for our safety really means a lot."

Another OIF veteran who took part in the ceremony, Sgt. Adam Tack, a Pittsburgh native and, like Goss, a Sergeant Instructor at the SNCOA, said it is a day he will not soon forget.

"It is a great feeling knowing there are good people around the world who care about the Marines and aren't afraid to show it," said Tack. "To receive that type of

support from people from another country really makes it hit home that the free world is behind us. I will remember this day for as long as I live."



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Members of the Japan Religious Committee for World Federation conducted a ceremony at the Lt. Fusata Iida marker, Saturday, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to honor fallen World War II warriors from both sides of the battle lines. The group also held a ceremony at the Pacific War Memorial to pay homage to fallen Marines of the Global War on Terrorism.

NEWS BRIEFS

Road and Parking Lot Closure

Sections of Nimitz Road will be closed June 27 and 28 for paving and on July 6 for striping. During the road closure, a detour will be in place to route traffic away from the construction area. Pedestrians will only be allowed to cross in marked crosswalks. There will be a partial lane closure, but will allow two-way vehicular access from Monday through Friday to facilitate curb/gutter removal and replacement.

The B-503 Parking Lot will be closed from June 29 through July 5 for paving and on July 12 for striping.

Stand Up for America Fourth of July Parade

Each year, Stand Up for America participates in the Fourth of July Parade in Kailua. This is a patriotic parade that happens to be the largest Independence Day event on Oahu. This year, the theme of the 59th Annual Fourth of July Parade is "Kailua Honors American Heroes."

SUFA is inviting the loved ones of deployed service members, and recently returned service members to march in the parade. Participants are asked to bring an 8 inch by 10 inch, or larger, framed photo of a loved one with them.

The parade will begin July 4 at 10 a.m. on Kainalu Street, but all participants should arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. The parade ends at Kailua Intermediate School at approximately 12 p.m.

For more information on SUFA, log onto their Web site at www.standupforamerica.net. To reserve a place in the parade, call or e-mail Mike Gabbard at 682-0618 or mike@standupforamerica.net.

MDA Needs Male Volunteers for Summer Camp

Volunteers looking for an exceptionally rewarding summer experience should consider Muscular Dystrophy Association's summer camp. Volunteer counselors are needed to help children and adults with neuromuscular diseases enjoy the sun and fun at the upcoming MDA summer camp from Wednesday to June 29 at YMCA Camp H.R. Erdman in Waialua.

For more information or to obtain a volunteer application, call (808) 593-4454.

Volunteer counselors should be:

- At least 16 years of age;
- Of sufficient strength and size to assist with the needs of campers;
- Able to lift and care for a camper;
- In good health with no major medical problems, injury or illness that could hamper the ability to care for their camper;
- Temperamentally suited for the position;
- Able to follow guidelines and rules set by MDA Camp Director.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the "Letters to the Editor" section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

E-Mail: editor@hawaiimarine.com, with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

Mail: Public Affairs Office
Letters to the Editor
Bldg. 216, Box 63002
MCB Hawaii 96863

Fax: (808) 257-2511

HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m.

Call 257-4300 for more information.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852

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Cases of postal money order fraud surface

Base has had at least 15 fake money orders

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

There have always been stories of people getting scammed out of huge amounts of money on the streets and through mail orders. Now, the popular scam of choice is proving to be with United States postal money orders, and the way victims are chosen, is through Internet e-mail accounts.

It seems that unsuspecting consumers can sometimes be easily fooled only for the fact that they wouldn't even know what to look for, according to Paul Krenn, a spokesman for the United States Postal Service. More than 3,700 counterfeit postal money orders were intercepted from October to December 2004, and according to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, post office officials, at least 15 fake money orders have surfaced on base.

Most of the fraud occurs from international forgers, usually in Nigeria, or Ghana and Eastern Europe. One hundred and sixty arrests have been made due to money order fraud in the United States since October, but in a lot of cases the schemes often do not involved

attempts by the fraud artists to cash the postal money orders.

Oftentimes the fraud begins when a person who wants to buy the product that is for sale contacts a seller via e-mail or in an online chat room. The seller is eventually deceived into accepting money orders as payment, or is talked into cashing the money order and sending the originator the balance, minus a fee.

In another typical fraud, a seller is sent counterfeit postal money orders in excess of the cost of an item being purchased. The seller is then asked to keep the cost of the purchase and ship back the balance in cash, along with the merchandise. This is where the seller loses a great deal of money, along with their merchandise.

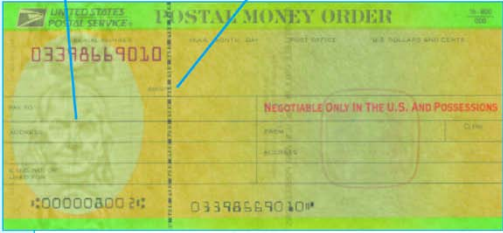
According to postal service officials, there are ways to be able to identify a genuine postal money order. The most common is a watermark, which should reveal a picture of Benjamin Franklin when it is held in front of light. Genuine postal money orders also have a security mark that runs along the watermark that when held up to the light, reveals the letters "USPS" along the right-hand side.

For more information about online fraud and tips on identifying counterfeit postal money orders, go online to www.usps.com/postalinspectors.

U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER SECURITY FEATURES

A WATERMARK of Benjamin Franklin is visible when held to the light.

A "USPS" security THREAD is embedded in the Postal Money Order paper.



WARNING INSTRUCTIONS are listed on the reverse side of the Postal Money Order.

- A crisp, textured PAPER stock.
- RED INK on Postal Money Order serial number BLEEDS through to back side of paper.
- DENOMINATIONS are indicated on two locations on the Postal Money Order.
- DISCOLORATION around the denomination amounts if they have been erased.
- DENOMINATIONS no larger than \$1,000.00.

Federal honors



Staff Sgt. Jon D. Jerome (center), Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, stands with all of the nominees for Enlisted Service Member of the Year after an awards luncheon at the Sheraton Waikiki, June 8. Jerome was one of five nominees from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, who were recognized during the 49th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon. The four others were: Joanne Jahnke, Facilities Department, nominated for Federal Employee of the Year — Clerical and Assistant; Dr. Diane C. Drigot, Environmental Compliance Protection Department, nominated for Federal Employee of the Year — Professional Administrative Technical; Staff Sgt. Michael L. Seiner, Marine Corps Air Facility, Crash Fire Rescue Branch, nominated for Exceptional Community Service; and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Franc E. Montalvo who represented the Installation Personnel Administration Center, which was nominated for Federal Organizational Excellence.

Photo Courtesy of Navy Airman John T. Jackson

CD raises awareness for ASYMCA

Press Release
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Sony BMG Music Entertainment company, released a CD entitled "Patriotic Country 2," Flag Day, which features 17 patriotic songs from well-known country music artists.

The CD will raise awareness and money for the Armed Services YMCA, a leading private provider of social and support services for military families.

"Patriotic Country 2" is a compilation of popular, wholesome, contemporary country music hits that express pride in America, according to a fact sheet from the music company. It is the follow up to last year's chart-topping "Patriotic Country" CD, which has already raised more than \$500,000 in cash and in-kind donations for charities that support the military.

A portion of the proceeds from this year's



CD will go directly to the ASYMCA, according to a spokeswoman from Dittus Communications, which is promoting the project. However, the real purpose of the project is to raise awareness of ASYMCA and the services it provides the nation's service members and their families, she said. Increased public awareness will help the organization grow and expand the wide variety of programs it offers to improve military quality of life.




The CD features the ASYMCA logo, and several of the artists will be publicly promoting the CD and the ASYMCA.

There are 16 ASYMCA branch locations, six affiliated Community YMCAs, and 10 Department of Defense/Department of Homeland Security affiliates worldwide. ASYMCA focuses on providing social services to military members and their families, particularly below the rank of E-6, though all ranks are served.

ASYMCA Services

- Recreational programs
- Day camps for military children
- Training and conference management
- Counseling and support services
- Outreach centers for families of deployed troops
- Trips and tours
- Child care services
- A national publication
- Events and activities for single military members
- Parenting training courses
- Support during family separations created by military duties
- Home visitations to military families living on base
- Transportation for families living in isolated areas away from a military installation
- Tutoring and mentoring programs

Weekend weather outlook

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
<p>Day — Partly cloudy skies with northeasterly winds at 8-10 mph with gusts to 15 mph</p> <p>Night — Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers, northeasterly winds at 8-10 mph</p> <p>High — 83 Low — 75</p>	<p>Day — Partly cloudy with some mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers early, northeasterly winds at 10-12 mph, gusts to 18 mph.</p> <p>Night — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies and isolated rainshowers, easterly winds at 10-12 mph.</p> <p>High — 83 Low — 75</p>	<p>Day — Partly cloudy with mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers in the morning, easterly winds at 10-12 mph with gusts to 20 mph</p> <p>Night — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers, easterly winds, 8-10 mph</p> <p>High — 82 Low — 73</p>

Martial arts moves

MCMAP essential for all Marines

Story and Photos By
Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

“When a Marine goes into combat, he’s not going to be in tennis shoes,” said Sgt. Steven Byrnes, Marine Corps Martial Arts instructor, Regimental Schools. “MCMAP should be incorporated into every physical training session. Marines should always train with the idea that they may be sent into combat at any time; that training should include everyday PT.”

The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, better known as “MCMAP,” was implemented in



Sgt. Steven Byrnes (black shirt), MCMAP instructor, Regimental Schools, performs a sweeping hip throw on Lance Cpl. Sean Denson, Base Adjutant’s Office, during training.

October 2000 and has provided positive outcomes to include improved self-esteem, mental discipline and personal pride — all worthy of the time invested into the program. An individual’s investment increases in proportion

with the difficulty of the program as they move up through the different levels of belts. MCMAP is based upon specific skills used on various established martial arts techniques.

Aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the MCMAP instructors are putting hundreds of Marines through a year of training, further increasing their combat readiness.

As for MCMAP instructors on MCB Hawaii, there are two for the Regimental Schools who are also responsible for training future instructors who will be responsible for training the Marines assigned to their units. The MCMAP instructors train an average of 20 students per course and these students, once certified, will go on to train their units, up to certain belt levels.

“In order to be sent to this course, the Marine must be at least the rank of corporal and at a gray-belt level,” said Byrnes, a Brunswick, Ohio native. “We encourage units to send Marines through, though, so every unit can have their own MCMAP instructors. That way they can go back and certify their Marines and also incorporate the techniques into the PT sessions.”

The next MCMAP course for this qualification begins July 15 and will run through Aug. 12. From Aug. 15 through

the 19, there will be a Combat Conditioning Specialty Course given as well.

The goal of the Marine Corps is to have every infantryman of the appropriate grade reach the level of brown belt by the end of the fiscal year. Marines assigned to other combat specialties of appropriate grade are also expected to reach green belt status, while Marines in noncombatant fields are expected to be at least gray-belt certified.

As far as K-Bay MCMAP training goes, it is up to the discretion of the different commands as to how far they want their Marines to go with their training and different belt achievements.

“All of the commands look at the MARAD-MINS and the Marine Corps Order and put their own thoughts into it,” said the four-year instructor. “They decide how much they can do with their Marines and set that goal for the year.”

As this year goes on, those traveling throughout the base will see Marines dressed in flak jackets unleash their power on their opponent’s pads. They will also observe one partner win in pain as he or she is tossed to the ground.

For the Marines Corps to reach the goal set forth for this year, every unit will have to send as many Marines as they can to MCMAP. Each class that a Marine finishes means that the Corps is that much closer to meeting its goal.



Sgt. Steven Byrnes (bottom), Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor, Regimental Schools, prepares to put Lance Cpl. Sean Denson, a Houma, La. native with the Base Adjutant’s Office, into a triangle choke.



Sgt. Steven Byrnes, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor and Brunswick, Ohio native, Regimental Schools, puts Lance Cpl. Sean Denson, Base Adjutant’s Office, into a basic leg lock during training. The MCMAP instructors train an average of 20 students per course and these students, once certified, will go on to train their units, up to certain belt levels.



Sgt. Steven Byrnes (black shirt), Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor, Regimental Schools, performs a sweeping hip throw on Lance Cpl. Sean Denson, Base Adjutant’s Office, during MCMAP training.



Combat Service Support Group 3 Marines install a silt curtain in Waimanalo Stream in preparation for mangrove removal earlier this month. Mangrove is invasive and non-native to the Hawaiian Islands.

Marines work to clear mangroves

Dr. Diane Drigot
Environmental Compliance and Protection Department

Looking for a new way to liven up physical training, help wildlife, reduce flood hazards, and play in the mud — all at the same time? Well, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Environmental Department has just the solution.

The Environmental Department regularly hosts outings where Marines, Sailors, and community volunteers pitch in to hack, pull, cut and haul out invasive weeds in protected wetlands and training areas on base.

Recent events at Nuupia Ponds saw several members of the Sierra Club and Marines assigned to Combat Service Support Group 3 remove mangrove from endangered Hawaiian stilt nesting areas.

CSSG-3 Marines are no strangers to the Waimanalo Stream at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, either. They recently erected protective silt screens and worked for an entire week, sawing out mangrove along stream banks to better protect upstream Waimanalo neighbors from floods when the rainy season returns.

Had these areas been left unchecked, these non-native trees which are protected in Florida, but considered a pest in Hawaii, would literally crowd out Hawaii's native plant and animal life, and choke waterways, acting as dams that cause back-up flooding during heavy rains. With steady volunteer and contractor help, MCB Hawaii has removed more than 20 acres of mangrove in as many years.

Efforts to clear these areas are recognized in the State of Hawaii's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan as an early leader in this regard. For more information on this topic, visit the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Aquatic Resources Division Web site at www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/announce.htm#AISplan.



Sgt Jeremy R. Kubler (left), Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, and a friend haul mangrove out of Nuupia Ponds on MCB Hawaii, April 9.

For more information about volunteering for cleanup efforts, contact Dr. Diane Drigot at 257-6920, ext. 224 or Lance Bookless, 257-6920, ext. 226.

Corpsmen give support overseas, home

Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia

Public Affairs Chief

Surrounded by photographs that depict part of their 107 years of existence, three Navy hospital corpsmen talk about their last six months supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

After working together at the same regiment for a couple of years, each took a different path last summer, one to Afghanistan, one to Iraq, and one to maintain control of more than 140 hospital corpsmen on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Their mission is basically the same; to remain proficient in their duties, to teach Marines how to care for himself or herself in case the corpsmen assigned to them is wounded and to train junior corpsmen. From 8,000 miles apart, that's just what they did.

The youngest, 20-year-old, Petty Officer 3rd Class Chad M. Eichin, assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, found himself waking to the reality of war only hours after arriving in Camp Fallujah, October 2004.

"You can talk it up pretty much, but until it happens to you, you really don't know," said Eichin.

Eight hours after arriving at their camp, Eichin and his Marines experienced their first mortar attack, which wounded several Marines. Hearing "corpsman up" when it actually meant something, he and two other corpsmen rendered aid to the wounded. It is something that's still vivid in his mind, according to Eichin.

The Loveland, Colo. native arrived at 1/3 several years ago where he said that it took a little while for him to be absorbed into the unit. But as the 1/3 Marines' trust built up in him, his Marines let him get to work without hesitation, according to Eichin. After training with the company for almost two years, they began their travels to Iraq, although he didn't realize he would end up there.

On July 4, 2004, his unit left for Okinawa as part of a regularly scheduled deployment. They boarded three amphibious ships from the Essex Amphibious Ready Group and traveled with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) as part of the Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines and headed toward the Middle East where they were to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Once in Iraq, Eichin took part alongside Marine infantrymen as they searched for insurgents in the city of Fallujah. He recalled a close call when he and members of 3rd Platoon were directed to move back to their command post and, upon arriving, found out that minutes after leaving their last position; it had taken a direct insurgent mortar hit.

His stay in Iraq ended abruptly when in late October 2004 an improvised explosive device hit the seven-ton vehicle he was riding in. The attack killed seven Marines and wounded several others, including Eichin and a fellow corpsman.

Instantly, the young "doc" became a patient. He lay on the ground with a smashed left arm and third degree burns on his right hand and face. Others cared for him as he was treated in several facilities in Iraq and Germany, before returning to America. Because of the medication he was taking, his mind is filled with hazy memories, but he vividly recalls seeing his mother at his bedside each time he woke up while undergoing treatment in Brooks Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

He spent about 40 days in Texas undergoing surgeries, skin grafts from his thighs for his hand and starting physical therapy. He went home for a few weeks of convalescent leave before returning for a checkup. The doctors released him back to his parent command and he came back to Hawaii on Jan. 10.

A thick fresh scar on his left arm marks the spot where surgeons fixed titanium pieces to repair his broken bones. As part of his recuperating process Eichin must wear a blue fingertip-less glove that will hug his right hand for about a year



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Petty Officer 1st Class Dover R. Slone (left) and Petty Officer 3rd Class Chad M. Eichin, practice medical techniques on Petty Officer 3rd Class Don Dickson on Wednesday.

while his skin heals. None of this bothers him as he prepares to train his Marines again so they can be ready to deploy at the end of the year, this time possibly in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to Eichin.

While Eichin was leaving Iraq last fall, a sister battalion, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, was beginning their tour in Afghanistan. One of their corpsmen, Petty Officer 1st Class Dover R. Slone recalled his time there.

His father, a retired U.S. Marine sergeant major, named the 36-year-old after a corpsman his father served with in Vietnam. Almost four decades later, his son completes his eighth deployment.

Unlike his rookie counterpart, Slone's perspective was a bit different.

"The terrain was pretty trying, we hit every climate in our area of responsibility," said Slone. Covering patrols in caves as well as in urban areas was new for the unit but they were prepared with both cold- and hot-weather gear.

The atmosphere in Afghanistan allowed 3/3 to participate in numerous activities with the local Afghans.

"We did about 25 medical civic action program visits," said the Richmond, Ohio native. According to Slone, these sorts of missions were kind of tense, because they would set up all their gear in open areas and they were never sure who was who, between the good guys and the bad guys. Treatments ranged from cleaning gunshot wounds to taking care of the common cold.

Taking care of children and hearing their parent's heartfelt thanks was the most rewarding thing, according to Slone. The unit treated almost 9,000 people during their stay.

The fighting still went on and the insurgents attacked with some of the same tactics used in Iraq, but the Marines and Sailors of 3/3 were ready. But for Slone, being in combat was not the most frightening thing.

After the first mortar hit, he became used to the shaking of the ground and the loud sounds,

but other things bothered his heart. "My kids growing up without me scared me more than the rockets," said Slone.

Like the range in climate from hot to cold, the unit's missions ranged from community events to intense combat.

As the deployment neared the end, they found themselves in a fight where two Marines lost their lives.

"We'd just talked about how lucky we were, then two of our guys died in a five-hour fire-fight," said Slone. "That was the most memorable moment ... when our guys died."

The veteran corpsman returned to Hawaii several weeks ago and is now preparing a move to a non-deployable unit in Indiana.

A big smile fills his face as he talks about his wife and two boys. "She's had several house moves without me, this is the first one in awhile for me," he said.

As the two corpsmen tell their stories Chief Petty Officer Ronald C. Salvador bittersweetly lauds his Sailors.

"While they deployed, it was a painful feeling because I wanted to be with them there — with my Sailors, taking care of them," said the Manila, Philippines native.

With corpsmen in OIF and OEF Salvador had to take care of business here. He's in charge of placing more than 180 hospital corpsmen where they'll best be utilized.

Both Salvador and Sloan agree that their corpsmen are always on their minds, wondering if they trained them enough. But when they see them doing the right thing it fills them with pride.

Salvador's years of experience is paramount in overseeing how they are trained and where they go with the GWOT. Most units need more corpsmen as they deploy into combat zones, and many are being pulled from hospitals, clinics and other usually non-deployable units.

Salvador was instrumental in developing an eight-week program in conjunction with the base medical clinic that has incorporated training corpsmen with Marines. Salvador's legacy goes with them as they travel into harms way.

Marine volunteers life to country, time to community

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Marine Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — The field is full of excitement, as hundreds of screaming elementary children cheer their fellow students on to victory. Among this multitude of sugar-fueled fans, a figure literally stands taller than the rest, Lance Cpl. John Chang. He sounds off at the top of his lungs motivating the students he has volunteered to help.

Chang, a native of Shoreline, Wash., joined the Marine Corps, June 23, 2003, only a few days after he graduated from Shorewood High School.

In addition to his Marine Corps job as a computer technician, maintaining networks and ensuring the command has all the electronic equipment it needs, Chang gives up some of his time on Thursdays volunteering with the Adopt-a-School program.

Volunteers like Chang help by tutoring the students in small groups. This allows the teachers to give students more specialized attention.

Once a week the students get a break from the normal learning style, and get a chance to learn from a Marine.

This helps add a little variety to the learning process, according to Chang.

“The kids enjoy me working with them in small groups because they feel like they’re getting more attention. At the same time, it makes reading or math more exciting for them. And, of course PE, they love PE,” said Chang.

The way the children cling to Chang, someone could think that they want him to be their permanent teacher, something Chang would enjoy if he didn’t work for Uncle Sam.

“I enjoy my job and all, volunteering is just a way to get a break from the day-to-day routine. I wanted to do something that will take my mind off work once in a while,” said Chang.

Chang does more than just volunteer with students when he takes a break from work. He participates at special events as a member of the Camp Smith color guard.

The color guard is a group of four Marines, two riflemen and two flag bearers, who march with the American and Marine Corps flags at ceremonies and events.

“Working with the color guard is rewarding. The people who attend the events always seem appreciative. Especially at retirement ceremonies or big events, like the Australian New Zealand Army Corps celebration,” said Chang.

Even with work and volunteering, Chang still has to attend college classes at Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu.

“I am almost finished with my associate’s degree, and I plan to get my bachelor’s

degree soon,” Chang said. “I want to focus on justice administration. That could change in a week, though. I change my mind all the time,” Chang added with a smile.

The adage, “that all work and no play, makes Johnnie a dull boy,” is certainly true with Chang.

“Chang does seem to spend a majority of his time either at work, school, or helping out someone else, but he still manages to go out on Friday nights and have a good time,” said Cpl. Justin P. Russell, his friend and neighbor.

Besides just the normal evenings out, Chang said he likes to reap the benefits of living in Hawaii.

“I love the weather here. Back home it rained during every season. Here the weather is perfect almost all the time,” exclaimed the Washington native. “Since it’s nice out all the time, I get to go running a lot more. That’s something I enjoy. Lately I have participated in a few five-kilometer runs, just to keep in shape.”

“I participate in other outdoor activities,

too. I play football for the Camp Smith Raiders, go to the beach here and there, and every once in a while I hang out with the guys,” said Chang.

“Going out and having a good time with the boys is fun and all, but I have just as much fun volunteering,” added Chang. “I smile a lot more when I am around those kids,” Chang said laughing, as he thought about a recent visit to the school.

“Doing something for the community is a great feeling because you feel like you’re making a difference in these kids’ lives,” added Chang.

The smiles on the children’s faces were enough evidence to show that Chang, indeed, makes a difference in the lives of those he helps.


“People need to realize that Marines do more than just support operations. They’re members of the community, and they’re willing to make a difference,” Chang added as he walked off the field, followed by a platoon full of overjoyed elementary students.



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Lance Cpl. John Chang, a computer technician, Marine Forces Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, sounds off, hoping to motivate the students of Pearl City Elementary at their track and field meet. Chang volunteers at the school on a weekly basis, helping the students in and out of class.

You Drink.
You Drive.



You Lose.

Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 31 minutes and nonfatally injure someone every two minutes.

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Lance Cpl. Dan Robert, squad automatic weapon gunner with Lima Company, charges forward through the deep snow of the Hindu Kush mountains to his squad's next objective during Operation Spurs in February.

3/3, From A-1

mission. They surrounded an area suspected of housing anti-government militia and were able to capture eight men and seize illegal weapons and explosives without firing a single shot, all due to precise planning and execution of the mission.

Operation Mavericks was the next major success for the Marines of America's Battalion. Kilo and Lima companies worked with the Navy to round up suspected terrorists and confiscate weapons and explosives caches.

Despite all of their previous accomplishments, the month of May brought the unit's first tragedy as two of their fellow comrades were lost to them during a gun-battle in the Afghan region of Laghman province. Cpl. Richard P. Schoener and Lance Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven, who were killed while protecting their brothers-in-arms, were honored and remembered by their comrades in a memorial service on May 13.

The battalion's most recent operation took a fairly opposite approach in that it was one that consisted of providing aid to the Afghan people and of rebuilding. In late May, Marines and Sailors participated in Operation Celtics in Tora Bora. Not only did they rebuild structures, they also rebuilt the faith and trust of the Afghan people. America's Battalion spent time with village elders and provided the Afghans who lived in the area with food, blankets, and other essential items they needed.

While deployed, the Marines and Sailors performed a myriad of duties in country, but America's Battalion has completed its deployment and they have begun their journey back to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

3/3 Arival Schedule

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment will return to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, in multiple flights, today through Monday. Friends and family members can greet their returning heroes at Hangar 105 of the Marine Corps Air Facility.

Arrival schedule:
Today — 12:45 p.m.
Today — 7:55 p.m.
Sunday — 7:30 a.m.
Monday — 1:59 p.m.

For updates to arrival times, or for information about specific Marines, call the 3/3 Duty Office at 257-5911.

PWMLS, From A-1

the theater is always large, explained Hoffman, the general feedback suggests that attendees would prefer a smaller, more intimate setting.

"Listeners include Marines, Sailors, spouses and other base personnel," said Hoffman. "The large number of attendees can sometimes take away from the speeches, giving the experience an impersonal feel."

Due to the speakers' professional backgrounds, attendance at the PWMLS is expected to be at its maximum, as usual.

The upcoming PWMLS will begin at 6:30 p.m., June 28, with a reception to be held at The Officers' Club following the speech. Attendance at the O'Club is open to both officer and enlisted personnel.

DUIs are career killers

*Editor's Note: Per the base commander of MCB Hawaii, individuals arrested for driving under the influence (DUI), driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the **Hawaii Marine** newspaper.*

- June 10, a base resident. Driving under the influence, with a blood alcohol content of .19 percent.
- June 11, Petty Officer 3rd Class James C. Holcombe of VP-9. DUI pending a blood test result.

IN YOUR LIFETIME, YOUR ODDS OF MAKING A HOLE-IN-ONE ARE 1 IN 12,000. YOUR ODDS OF DEVELOPING SKIN CANCER ARE 1 IN 5.

"Do your skin a favor — wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher and my personal favorite, wear a wide-brimmed hat."

-Greg Norman

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